

What is claimed is:

1. A receiving stand (for a frame stacking system of the type used to stack prefabricated frames,) said receiving stand comprising:

5 a bench configured for receiving and supporting the frames thereon;

a stanchion pivotally movable relative to the bench about a pivot axis of the stanchion between a raised, generally upright position in which at least a portion of the stanchion extends above the bench to facilitate the stacking of frames on the bench, and a lowered position away from the frames stacked on the bench to facilitate unloading of the frames from the bench; and

15 a spring member biasing the stanchion toward its raised position.

2. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1 wherein the spring member comprises at least one spring.

3. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 2 wherein the spring member comprises four springs.

4. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 2 wherein the stanchion has a lower end extending below the pivot axis of the stanchion in the upright position of the stanchion, the at least one spring applying a biasing force to the lower end of the stanchion to bias the stanchion toward its raised, upright position.

5. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 4 wherein the at least one spring is a linear spring having

one end connected to the lower end of the stanchion for conjoint movement therewith about the pivot axis of the
5 stanchion, and an opposite end fixed against movement relative to the pivot axis of the stanchion.

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6. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 5 wherein said receiving stand has a front end and a rear end, said portion of the stanchion extending above the pivot axis in the upright position of the stanchion pivoting substantially rearward and down relative to the bench upon movement of the stanchion toward its lowered position, said lower end of the stanchion below the pivot axis thereof pivoting substantially forward and up relative to the bench upon movement of the stanchion toward its lowered position, said opposite end of the at least one spring being fixed against movement relative to the pivot axis at a location substantially rearward of said pivot axis whereby pivoting movement of the stanchion toward its lowered position elongates said at least one spring such that said elongation of the spring generates a biasing force acting on the lower end of the stanchion to bias the stanchion toward its raised, upright position.

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7. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 6 wherein the bench comprises a base, at least one support leg extending up from the base, and an elongate rail member supported by the at least one support leg and oriented for receiving and supporting the frames thereon, said receiving stand further comprising a carriage mounted on the rail member for longitudinal movement

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thereon, the stanchion being supported by the carriage for conjoint movement with the carriage on the rail member, said stanchion being pivotally connected to the carriage for rotation relative to the carriage and the bench between the lowered and the raised, upright positions of the stanchion.

8. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 7 wherein said opposite end of the at least one spring is connected to the carriage in fixed relation with the pivot axis of the stanchion.

9. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 7 wherein in the raised, upright position of the stanchion the lower end of the stanchion extends down below the rail member of the bench.

10. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a shield panel generally adjacent the spring member for reducing the risk of injury in the event the spring member fails.

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11. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 10 wherein the shield panel is connected to the stanchion for conjoint pivoting movement therewith, said shield panel being configured and arranged for positioning generally adjacent the spring member in the lowered position of the stanchion.

12. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1 wherein said spring member applies a biasing force to the

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stanchion at a location longitudinally offset from the pivot axis of the stanchion upon movement of the stanchion from its raised, upright position toward its lowered position to bias the stanchion toward its raised, upright position.

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13. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1 wherein the bench comprises a base, at least one support leg extending up from the base, and an elongate rail member supported by the at least one support leg and oriented for receiving and supporting the frames thereon, said stanchion at least partially extending down below the rail member of the bench.

14. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 13

wherein the stanchion has a generally U-shaped lower end comprising a cross-member extending generally transversely over the rail member of the bench and a pair of side members depending from the cross-member to below the rail member in the raised, upright position of the stanchion.

15. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 14 wherein the cross-member of the lower end of the stanchion is disposed generally below the pivot axis of the stanchion.